

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL _____

March 28, 2011

STATE BOARD MEETING DATE _____

SUBJECT: Arizona Charter School Incentive Program Awards for April 1, 2011- March 31, 2014

SUBMITTED BY: Karen Butterfield, Ed. D.

MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW: March 10, 2011

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In August of 2009, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement (OII) awarded one of five charter school grants to the Arizona Department of Education to increase public school options in Arizona. The Agency created the Arizona Charter Schools Incentive Program (AZCSIP) office to administer the grant.

"Charter schools have an important role to play in the overall strategy of promoting successful school reform and school turnaround models," said Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. "(Arizona) has an opportunity to be selective and provide new high-quality public charter school choices for students and parents."

The purpose of the Arizona Charter Schools Incentive Program is to 1) increase the number of high quality charter schools in Arizona, particularly those serving students most at risk in rural and urban settings, 2) improve student achievement to high academic standards in schools, and 3) to improve high school student achievement and graduation rates.

Arizona's initial award is for \$14,024,105 for the first two years (8/01/09-7/31/2011). The contract abstracts submitted with this agenda item represent the first group of successful applicants.

CONTRACT ABSTRACT

Proposed contract between the State Board of Education, acting for and on behalf of the Department of Education and the following parties:

Name of Contracting Parties:

See attached list of awards

Purpose:

The purpose of the Arizona Charter Schools Incentive Program is to 1) increase the number of high quality charter schools in Arizona, particularly those serving students most at risk in rural and urban settings, 2) improve student achievement to high academic standards in schools, and 3) to improve high school student achievement and graduation rates.

ADE's application for \$53,737,071 to be distributed over 5 years was approved. Arizona's initial award is for \$14,024,105 for August 1, 2009 through July 31, 2011. We believe that as long as the Agency is accomplishing the grant's goals, it will be entitled the full amount for we applied.

The schools selected have a variety of strategies to improve pupil achievement. All of them have data driven strategies to continuously monitor student progress and in-house programs to align school staff with enhanced outcomes.

Much of the funding will go to support the material startup expenditures of opening a school. At the same time, considerable funding will go to building leadership and staff capacity to create school-wide cultures of learning.

Contract Amount:

Not to exceed \$230,000 per school per annum; \$7,590,000 through March 31, 2014.

Source of Funds:

Authorizing Legislation: No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), Public Law 107-110, Section 5201, Index No. 02451

Responsible Unit at Department of Education:

Academic Achievement Division

Division Associate Superintendent:
Program Administrator:

Karen Butterfield, Director
Mark Francis

Dates of Contract:

The agreements shall take effect when approved by the Board, and shall terminate on March 31, 2014.

Explanation of Contract:

The Arizona Charter Schools Incentive Program start-up award is a competitive, discretionary grant. Successful replicated or new charter entities which describe in their application a compelling, school-wide vision for challenging standards, engaging instruction and rigorous assessment which will increase Arizona student achievement are encouraged to open new schools. Preference points are awarded to schools with 1) over 30% Free and Reduced Lunch student membership, 2) in urban or rural areas and 3) grades 9-12.

Previous Contract History

None of these 11 schools have previously received an AZCSIP award.

Number Affected (Students, Teachers, and Public, as appropriate)

11 Charter School Entities (list attached)

Method of Determining Contract Amount(s)*Selection Process:*

A competitive application was reviewed by a 5 person panel consisting of a federal program director, 3 charter school operators and a university educator.

Method of Determining Contract Amount:

1. The Range of AZCSIP school populations in their 3rd year is 200 students to 600 students.
2. 200 students in Year Three was the criterion for maximum funding. All schools have met that criterion and are eligible for \$230,000 per year for the life of the grant.

Evaluation Plan:

Each awarded charter entity is required to produce an annual report which will align with the following:

1. The US ED Charter School Program SEA monitoring instrument
2. The Arizona Charter Schools Incentive Program evaluation instrument which assesses the following:
 - a. Academic standards and continuous improvement
 - b. Governance
 - c. Ethical Leadership
 - d. Business and Financial Practices

A key strategy in the evaluation process is regular on-site visits by the AZCSIP staff to awarded schools to evaluate effectiveness and identify leading indicators (predictors) of success.

Charter School Entities - 2011-2014 Grant Cycles

		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
1.	Academy of Mathematics and Science South, Inc.	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$230,000
2.	Ball Charter School Eastside, Inc.	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$230,000
3.	BASIS Chandler	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$230,000
4.	BASIS Flagstaff	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$230,000
5.	BASIS Peoria	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$230,000
6.	Carpe Diem	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$230,000
7.	Archway Classical Academy (GH)	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$230,000
8.	Arête Preparatory Academy (GH)	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$230,000
9.	Litchfield Park Preparatory Academy (GH)	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$230,000
10.	Maryvale Preparatory Academy (GH)	\$230,000	\$230,000	\$230,000
11.	Institute for Transformational Education, Inc.	<u>\$230,000</u>	<u>\$230,000</u>	<u>\$230,000</u>
	SubTotal:	\$2,530,000	\$2,530,000	\$2,530,000
	Total:	\$7,590,000		